

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus, comprising:  
a storage device to store at least two color information files having  
contents different from each other;  
selecting means for selecting one of said at least two color  
5 information files according to brightness of image data; and  
sending means for externally sending said selected color information  
file by attaching said file to said image data.

2. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said selecting means determines the brightness of said image data based on  
a number of bright pixels having luminance brighter than a prescribed  
luminance value and a number of dark pixels having luminance darker than  
5 said prescribed luminance value.

3. The image processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein  
said at least two color information files include a color information  
file for highlight that is suitable for conversion processing of a bright image,  
and a color information file for shadow that is suitable for the conversion  
5 processing of a dark image, and

said selecting means selects said color information file for highlight  
when the number of said bright pixels is greater than the number of said  
dark pixels by a prescribed amount, and selects said color information file  
for shadow when the number of said dark pixels is greater than the number  
10 of said bright pixels by a prescribed amount.

4. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further  
comprising color information creating means for creating said at least two  
color information files.

5. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further  
comprising reading means for reading an original to generate said image

data.

6. An image processing program to cause a computer to execute processing comprising the steps of:

selecting one of at least two color information files having contents different from each other, according to brightness of image data; and

5 externally sending said selected color information file by attaching said file to said image data.

7. The image processing program according to claim 6, wherein said selecting step includes the step of determining the brightness of said image data based on a number of bright pixels having luminance brighter than a prescribed luminance value and a number of dark pixels having  
5 luminance darker than said prescribed luminance value.

8. The image processing program according to claim 7, wherein said at least two color information files include a color information file for highlight that is suitable for conversion processing of a bright image and a color information file for shadow that is suitable for the conversion  
5 processing of a dark image, and

said selecting step includes the step of selecting said color information file for highlight when the number of said bright pixels is greater than the number of said dark pixels by a prescribed amount, and selecting said color information file for shadow when the number of said  
10 dark pixels is greater than the number of said bright pixels by a prescribed amount.

9. The image processing program according to claim 6, wherein said processing further comprises the step of creating said at least two color information files for storage in a storage device.

10. An image processing method, comprising the steps of:  
selecting one of at least two color information files having contents

different from each other, according to brightness of image data; and  
externally sending said selected color information file by attaching  
said file to said image data.

11. The image processing method according to claim 10, wherein  
said selecting step includes the step of determining the brightness of said  
image data based on a number of bright pixels having luminance brighter  
than a prescribed luminance value and a number of dark pixels having  
luminance darker than said prescribed luminance value.

12. The image processing method according to claim 11, wherein  
said at least two color information files include a color information  
file for highlight that is suitable for conversion processing of a bright image  
and a color information file for shadow that is suitable for the conversion  
processing of a dark image, and

said selecting step includes the step of selecting said color  
information file for highlight when the number of said bright pixels is  
greater than the number of said dark pixels by a prescribed amount, and  
selecting said color information file for shadow when the number of said  
dark pixels is greater than the number of said bright pixels by a prescribed  
amount.

13. The image processing method according to claim 10, further  
comprising the step of creating said at least two color information files for  
storage in a storage device.